

"Dealing with the Tempter and Temptation"
Genesis 3

Tactics of the enemy:

1. Satan always appears unexpectedly.

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

Principle: Being in the right environment does not automatically mean that you won't be tempted.

2. Satan twists the truth.
3. Satan tries to "talk" to us.
4. Satan wants us to see God as more severe than He is.
5. Satan attacks the principle of God's judgment.

Principle: The thirst for power can be unquenchable even when people have all of their needs met.

6. Satan attacks our vulnerable spots and isolates us.
7. Satan wants us to fixate on sin.

"For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:16

Principle: The battle over sin is won or lost in the mind. Whatever gets your attention will get you.

8. Satan entices us to invite others into our sin.

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" 1 Corinthians 15:33

Consequences of their sin:

1. The image of God is marred
2. Shame
3. Alienation
4. Fear
5. Concealing
6. Blaming
7. Cursed
8. Cast out
9. Death

Facts concerning temptation:

1. Temptation is not synonymous with sin.
2. Temptation does not necessitate sinning.
3. Temptation can occur while doing the right things.
4. Temptations can be occasions for spiritual growth.
5. Temptations can be used to increase usefulness.
6. Temptations provide opportunities for victory.
7. Temptations provide opportunities to glorify God.
8. All people struggle with temptation

"If you think you are standing firm (if you think you are beyond the reach of temptation) be careful lest you fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12.

9. Temptation comes in all shapes and sizes.
10. Satan is the source of all temptation.
11. When we yield to temptation – it is our fault.

How can I overcome temptation?

“You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 (CEV)

E – Environment

The process:

1. Identify when you are most likely to be tempted.
2. Identify where you are most likely to be tempted.
3. Identify who is with you when you are the most likely to be tempted.
4. Identify what you perceive the temporary benefits are when you give in to the temptation.
5. Identify how you are feeling at the time of your temptation.

Principle: You can either live your life avoiding ungodliness or pursing godliness.

Principle of replacement – Fill your mind with truth and good thoughts and it doesn't have time for bad thoughts.

Principle: We must arrange life so that sin no longer looks good to us.

S – Spend time with God

“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”
Psalms 50:15

Why don't we ask God for help when we are tempted?

1. We don't want God's help.
2. We keep falling in that same area time and time again.
3. We use willpower.

C – Claim Scripture

A – Accountability

P – Pleasure and pain

E – Evangelism

Closing thoughts:

1. Resolve to take the high road
2. Let God have control
3. Rely upon God's power.